



# Behind the Star

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

JULY, 2010

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



The Alexandria Sheriff's Office has a long standing tradition of serving the City of Alexandria with the highest standards of integrity, accountability and concern for our neighbors. This concern is manifested in everything we do. From operating a highly regarded and humanely run detention facility, providing a safe and secure means for individuals to pursue justice at

our Courthouse and helping to keep the streets of Alexandria free from danger, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office has always been a dedicated servant.

In addition to all that we do for our City, we stay committed to strengthening and improving the lives of Alexandria's youth. Each year, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office staff donates hundreds of hours to programs and activities that directly benefit the youth of our City. Such programs include the regular visits by our Deputies to TC Williams High School to teach the "active shooter" defense strategy enacted across the country as a result of the Columbine tragedy, our self-defense class that helps teens protect themselves against physical attack and staff that volunteer to serve as tutors, mentors and role models to Alexandria's elementary age children. Our Community Relations Deputy, usually accompanied by another colleague, is a regular visitor at several cub scouts troop meetings, and is heavily involved in programs at both T.C. Williams and Samuel Tucker Elementary School. To help graduating seniors get a strong start on their new lives, our Office participates in the "Senior Experience" program, offering three week internships that help mold and shape our most precious commodity, and through our participation in the TeensWork program, we offer summer jobs to the children of Alexandria's economically challenged families.

One program of which I am extremely proud is our annual Youth Academy (pictured above). Now in its second year, the Sheriff's Office Youth Academy offers youth ages 12-17 with an opportunity to come up close and personal with me, my staff, and our operations. Staff gives their time and energies to provide the participants with learning experiences, both academic and hands on, that teach them about the inner workings of the Sheriff's Office and about the City criminal justice systems as a whole.

As you read through this latest edition of our Newsletter, you may do so with confidence that the Alexandria Sheriff's Office remains committed to Alexandria and to Alexandria's youth.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Dana Lawhorne

## Guatemala Media Visit

Maria Jose Hernandez Kiesling, anchor of Guatemala's National Television Network Guatevision and Maris Jose, videographer, were part of a U.S. State Department International Exchange Program.

Anchor woman Maria Kiesling is known as Guatemala's "Katie Couric". The journalists were here at the Sheriff's Office to get a first hand look on how the Sheriff's Office manages prisoners and jail life.

Sgt. Rea directed the tour of the Alexandria Detention Center. During the tour the journalist learned how inmates are managed, including incoming arrests and booking procedures.

This was the first time Ms. Kiesling and Ms. Jose had ever seen the inside of a jail. Sgt. Rea also included in the tour visits to an inmate cell, medical and mental health units and program areas.



Lt. Williams being interviewed by Anchor Kiesling

## Truesdale Award



On March 18, 2010, Alexandria Jaycees held their annual awards program at City Hall to recognize Outstanding City employees. Several city officials spoke during the event, to include City Manager Jim Hartman and Sheriff Lawhorne. The Alexandria Jaycees awarded Sergeant Felicia Mensah with the Truesdale Award. She was recognized for her contributions to Alexandria through her participation with a clothing drive for the Carpenter's Shelter and the Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk and for being a dedicated and committed member of the Sheriff's Office.

(l to r) Comm. Kornegay, Chief George, Mr. Covert, Sgt. Mensah, Councilwoman Del Pepper and Sheriff Lawhorne

## Alexandria Commission on Women

The Alexandria Commission for Woman honored Mrs. Denise Costley at its 30th Annual Salute to Women Awards Banquet on March 22, 2010. Mrs. Costley was presented with the Vola Lawson Award which recognizes a City employee that has advanced, improved or otherwise contributed to the status of women in the course of their job. Mrs. Costley often goes above and beyond expectations to assist women at the Detention Center in returning to their communities. Ms. Costley is known for gathering coats and shoes from her own closet or from friends to help women that will be released from jail. She has worked at the Detention Center for 18 years.



Sheriff Lawhorne and Denise Costley



## Highlight Deputy for April 2010

Deputy Duwayne Morris currently works on Security Team 2A. He has worked for the Alexandria Sheriff's Office since 1999. Deputy Morris started his career in the Records Section as a records clerk before being promoted to Deputy Sheriff.

Deputy Morris served as an Army medic in 2006 and 2007 in Iraq.

He is to be commended for his service to his community in Alexandria and his country.



## Highlight Employee for May 2010

Latoscha Pierce started working at the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in 2001. She is currently working in the Administrative Section as an Administrative Technician. On July 1, 2010 Ms. Pierce will be promoted to Account Clerk IV.

Ms Pierce is an avid reader and is known for her bubbly sense of humor. She is an essential part of the finance team for the Sheriff's Office.



## T.C. William Connection



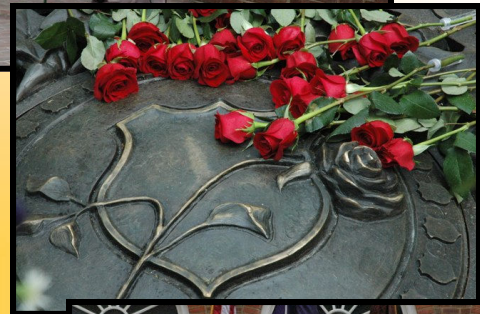
Deputy Chris O'Dell and Chief Lenny George (pictured on the left) conducted active shooter instruction for four Criminal Justice classes at T.C. Williams High School. This training compared and contrasted the old law enforcement response of "call SWAT and wait" to the new practice of first responders engaging the active shooter as quickly as possible. This change in response was precipitated by the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999.

Students not only learned how law enforcement responds to these situation, but were allowed to wear protective gear and form contact teams in simulated searches for active shooters.

# Truesdale Memorial



William G. Truesdale



On May 3, 2010, a wreath laying ceremony was held at 520 King Street in honor of William G. Truesdale. Dozens of Alexandria deputies and Alexandria Police Officers came to remember one of our own during National Corrections Week.

On January 27, 1981, three prisoners appeared in court and one of them, Wilbert Lee Evans who was facing robbery and murder charges in North Carolina, became disorderly. Deputy Truesdale immediately stepped in to quell the disturbance. Later, around 3:25 p.m. as Deputy Truesdale escorted Evans and two other prisoners back into the jail, Evans grabbed Deputy Truesdale's gun from his possession. Evans fired the .38 caliber revolver, shooting Deputy Truesdale once in the chest. Deputy Truesdale fell back and down the steps outside the jail. Evans then fired at his own handcuffs, freeing him and the prisoner he was mangled to. Evans then attempted to escape and ran from the jail but dozens of deputies and police officers who heard the shots quickly located him. Deputy Truesdale was taken to Alexandria Hospital where he died at 5:50.p.m.

**He is gone but not forgotten.**





## Gold Shield Award

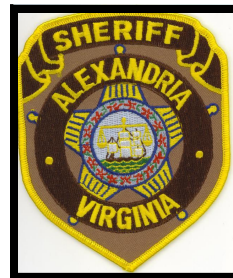


On May 24, 2010, Alexandria Sheriff's Office and Alexandria Police Department played each other in a game of softball which will now be an annual event. The winner was presented with a plaque to display at their department until next year's game.

Each department donated money so there was fun and food for all. This year's winner was the Sheriff's Office! Congratulations to our softball team!

## Operation Joint Venture

On April 26, 2010, through April 30, 2010, the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and the Alexandria Police Department conducted "Operation Joint Venture." The initiative was to reduce the number of outstanding arrest warrants in Alexandria City. The most serious offenders were targeted that were accused of robberies, felonious assaults, assaults on police, abduction, felony probation violations and other charges. A total of 100 criminals were arrested on 208 outstanding warrants. The effort resulted in 142 felony warrants, 62 misdemeanor warrants and 4 administrative deportation proceedings. Also assisting in the effort was the United States Marshal Service and the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force.



## Crisis Intervention Training

Six Deputy Sheriff's graduated from the City's first Crisis Intervention Training Academy. This Academy consisted of 40 hours of instruction on recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness and the proper response as law enforcement officers. The program is a collaborative effort from the City's department of mental health, police department and the sheriff's office. The Deputies learned skills in suicide intervention, verbal de-escalation techniques, recognizing psychiatric and substance abuse disorders, and legal training in mental health and substance abuse issues.



(l to r) Lt. Kapetanis, Deputies Richardson, Gwaltney, Dunham, Mackey and Gray and Sheriff Lawhorne

## EMPLOYEE AWARDS



Deputy Winstead was awarded Outstanding Performance Sworn Line Staff



Deputy Anderson and Deputy Honig were promoted to the rank of Deputy IV



Deputies Velez, Zadalis and Wooden were awarded the Unit Spirit Award. (Below) Guest speaker Deputy City Manger Michele Evans



On April 20, 2010, the Sheriff's Office held its annual employee awards ceremony to honor outstanding performance as well as recognizing staff promotions and elevations. Circuit Court Clerk Edward Semonian provided the oath of office. Deputy City Manager Michele Evans was the guest speaker. Sheriff Lawhorne was presented with a proclamation recognizing the accomplishments made by the Office under his leadership.

The following staff was recognized for promotions, outstanding service and performance:

Deputy Ernest Arroyo  
Commander Kornegay  
Sergeant Felicia Mensah  
Lieutenant Dorothy Pope  
Sergeant Mavis Thomas



Deputy Tonya Wilson was awarded the Life Saving Award (below) Deputy Monique Edwards was awarded the Community Service Award



Sergeant Rim was awarded the Esprit De Corps Award



Latoscha Pierce was awarded the Outstanding Performance Civilian Line staff



## VALOR AWARD



On May 18, 2010, Alexandria Chamber of commerce held its 24th Annual Valor Award ceremony for the Sheriff, Fire and Police Departments. Deputy Bryant Vaughn was awarded the Silver Medal of Valor. Deputy Sheriff Vaughn courageously exposed himself to great personal risk while engaged in an official law enforcement action while off duty.

## SPRING FOR ALEXANDRIA

April 30, 2010, was the Annual Spring for Alexandria Day. This year the Sheriff's Office had two teams volunteering in the City. One team worked at Armistead L. Boothe Park and the other painted the exterior of the Hopkins house and planted flowers.

(l to r) Sheriff Lawhorne, Carlita Cook, Deputy Edwards, Sergeant Josiah, Deputy Burnham, Latoscha Pierce, Sergeant Callcott, Rose Barnes and Cheryle Echane.



## Easter Bunny 2010



Christine Candio and Sheriff Lawhorne with Sheriff Millholland as the Easter Bunny (above)

On March 31, 2010, Sheriff Lawhorne and Sheriff Millholland from Winchester County visited Alexandria Hospital. Their mission was to bring cheer to staff and patients by a visit from the Easter Bunny and pass out small Easter bunnies. This was the second year for visiting Alexandria Hospital and plan on making it an annual event.

The visit brought smiles to patients but also doctors and nurses who were hard at work.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE YOUTH  
ACADEMY  
2010**

**DATE: AUGUST 16, 17, 18**

**TIME: 9:00 TO 2:30**

**Go behind the scenes of the Detention  
Center and the Courthouse**

**Learn different facets of Corrections  
and Law Enforcement**

**Age 12 and older**

**Information**

**Please contact:**

**Deputy Monique Edwards**

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**[Monique.edwards@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Monique.edwards@alexandriava.gov)**

**THIS ACADEMY IS FREE**



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We're on the web at

[www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff](http://www.alexandriava.gov/sheriff)

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office is responsible for the operation of the Detention Center, Courthouse and Courtroom security, service of all court legal documents, execution of court orders, transportation of prisoners, execution of arrest warrants, and general public safety and law enforcement. All powers, responsibilities and duties of the Alexandria Sheriff's Office derive from common law, the Virginia Constitution, the Code of Virginia and Alexandria Charter.



**“Respect, Responsibility and Results”**